

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CANCELED)
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~magnetic transfer~~ method of manufacturing a

master-information- recorded magnetic disk, comprising the steps of :

bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side;

✓ magnetically transferring a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field to the magnetic transfer master and the magnetic disk in close contact with one another; and

optically detecting defects in the surface of the magnetic disk,

wherein the magnetic transfer step is performed immediately after confirming in the optically detecting step that one of a number of defects on the surface of the magnetic disk and a size of the defects on the surface of the magnetic disk is not greater than a predetermined value.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~magnetic transfer~~ An apparatus for
manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk, comprising:

contacting means for bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side;

transfer means for magnetically transferring a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an

external magnetic field to the magnetic disk and magnetic transfer master in close contact with one another; and

defect detecting means for optically detecting defects on a surface of the magnetic disk,

wherein the contacting means and magnetic transfer means perform magnetic transfer immediately after the defect detecting means has confirmed that one of a number of defects on the surface of the magnetic disk and a size of the defects on the surface of the magnetic disk is not greater than a predetermined value.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~magnetic transfer~~ method of manufacturing a master-information- recorded magnetic disk, comprising the steps of:

bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side;

magnetically transferring a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field to the magnetic transfer master and the magnetic disk in close contact with one another; and

detecting defects in the magnetic disk by scanning the magnetic disk with a detection head that floats a predetermined distance above the surface of the magnetic disk,

wherein the detecting step is performed after the magnetic transfer step.

6.-19. (CANCELED)